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In the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following amended paragraph:

[0029] Referring now to Figures 3 and 4, the boat clamping mechanism 24 is intended to selectively attach the apparatus 12 to a support member of the sailboat 10. This boat clamping mechanism 24 includes a first bracing member 28 and a second bracing member 30 that is pivotally coupled to the first bracing member 28. Each bracing member 28, 30 includes a contoured surface 32, ~~[[32'']]~~ 32' for engaging the support member of the sailboat 10.

Please replace paragraph [0030] with the following amended paragraph:

[0030] The pivotal coupling between the first bracing member 28 and the second bracing member 30 allows an individual to spread open the boat clamping mechanism 24 and mount the boat clamping mechanism 24 to the support member of the sailboat 10. Specifically, an individual may detach the boat clamping mechanism 24 from the other components of the apparatus 12 and pivot the first bracing member 28 and the second bracing member 30 away from each other so as to expose the countered surfaces 32, ~~[[32'']]~~ 32' of the bracing members 28, 30. This configuration allows the boat clamping mechanism 24 to receive the support member of the sailboat 10. Once the contoured surfaces 32, ~~[[32'']]~~ 32' are positioned adjacent to the support member, the first and second bracing members 28, 30 are pivoted toward each other into a closed position so as to wrap the boat clamping mechanism 24 around the support member. Thereafter, the boat clamping mechanism 24 can be locked in this closed position, as detailed in the description for the bolt member 34 and the knob 36 of the apparatus 12.

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Please replace paragraph [0031] with the following amended paragraph:

[0031] In one embodiment, the first and second bracing members 28, 30 are separate components that respectively include a plurality of hinge protrusions 38, ~~[[38'']]~~ 38' extending therefrom for the purpose of pivotally coupling the first and second bracing members 28, 30 to each other. Each hinge protrusion 38, ~~[[38'']]~~ 38' has a hole ~~(not shown)~~ 39 integrally formed therethrough. The hinge protrusions 38, ~~[[38'']]~~ 38' are intended to be positioned so as to align the holes of each protrusion 38, ~~[[38'']]~~ 38' and allow for a pin (not shown) to be inserted into the holes. As a result, the first and second bracing members 28, 30' are pivotally coupled to each other.

Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following amended paragraph:

[0032] According to another embodiment as shown in Figure 9, the first and second bracing members 28, 30 are portions of a one-piece construction. For example, a living hinge element 38''' can be in connection between the first and second bracing members 28, 30 so as to provide the pivotal coupling therebetween.

Please replace paragraph [0033] with the following amended paragraph:

[0033] Although only ~~[[three]]~~ two types of pivotal couplings for the boat clamping mechanism 24 are described, it is understood that various other suitable pivotal couplings can be utilized as desired. Moreover, it is also understood that the boat clamping mechanism 24 can instead be a resilient one-piece construction comprised of a substantially flexible material as desired.

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Please replace paragraph [0044] with the following amended paragraph:

[0044] Referring now to Figure 6, the first gripping portion 40 of the flashlight clamping mechanism 26 includes a first non-skid surface 62 formed thereon adjacent to an end of the channel ~~[[46b]]~~ 46c. Likewise, the second bracing member 30 of the boat clamping mechanism 24 includes a second non-skid surface (not shown) adjacent to the channel ~~[[46c]]~~ 46b. The first and second non-skid surfaces are intended to contact each other and prevent rotation the flashlight clamping mechanism 26 relative to the boat clamping mechanism 24. These non-skid surfaces are textured surfaces that are integrally formed on each component.

Please replace paragraph [0047] with the following amended paragraph:

[0047] The sleeve insert 66 is a one-piece construction including two opposing shell pieces 70, ~~[[70'']]~~ 70' that are attached together by a living hinge element 72. These shell pieces 70, ~~[[70'']]~~ 70' can be wrapped around a smaller-sized item 68 for mounting that item 68 in the apparatus 12. However, it is understood that various other suitable constructions can be utilized as desired.